



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#9/B  
7-8-0 4  
OFFICE  
mep

In Re Application of

Applicant : S. B. Cirulli, et al  
Serial No. : 09/815,312  
Filed : 22 March 2001  
  
Examiner : Firmin Backer  
Group : 3621  
  
Entitled : System and Method for Leveraging  
Procurement Across Companies and Company  
Groups  
Docket No. : END920000176US1

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

RECEIVED

JUL 06 2004

## GROUP 3600

Honorable Commissioner  
for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandriá, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Advisory Action of 27 May 2004, further responsive to the Office action of 25 Feb 2004, and entered preliminary to consideration of the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed concurrently herewith.